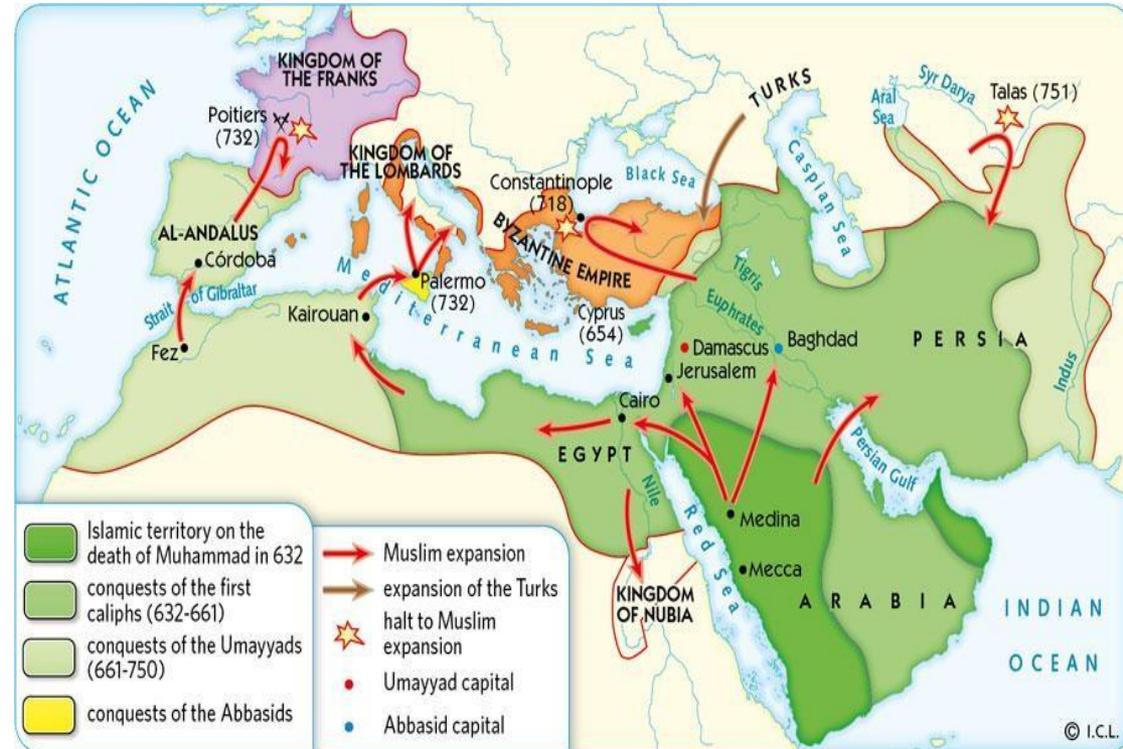


# HOW DID ISLAM EXPAND?

After Muhammad's death, Islamic Empire expanded from Arabian Peninsula to the Atlantic Ocean in the West and to the Indian Ocean in the East

## A) The Expansion Of Islam (632-846)

- ❑ **632** (Muhammad's death: Arabian Peninsula had converted to Islam, initiating a military expansion)
- ❑ **7th century:** expansion by Byzantine territories (Syria, Egypt) and Persian Empire.
- ❑ **8th century:** they reached Indus river; besieged Constantinople without conquering it. They expanded by North Africa, **Hispania (711-718)**, and were rejected from France (Poitiers, 732).
- ❑ **9th century:** Nubia (South of Egypt) and southern Italy (846).



**The Islamic Empire (Caliphate) absorbed several cultures and dominated trade between Asia and the Mediterranean sea.**

## B) The Organisation of the Caliphate:

During the middle ages different dynasties governed the Islamic Empire:

- ❑ **First four caliphs (632-661):** Muhammad's family members. During this period the Islam was divided for the first time into two groups:
  - ❖ **Shia:** They believe the **caliph** should be chosen from **Muhammad's descendents**. They only accept the **Koran**.
  - ❖ **Sunnis:** The **caliph** could be any **devout Muslim** believer. They use the **Koran** and the **Sunnah** or book of Islamic laws and traditions.
- ❑ **Umayyad dynasty (661-750):** Capital of their empire: **Damascus**. During their dynasty, the Caliphate conquered Spain and other regions.
- ❑ **Abbasid dynasty (750- 1258):** Capital city: **Baghdad**. During their period some parts of the empire got independent from the empire.
- ❑ **Turks (Ottoman dynasty):** Up to the XXth century. In 1453 they conquered Constantinople.

## C) Cultural and economic splendour

- ❑ The spread **Arabic language**. Also, Muslims enjoyed **economic and social benefits**, so most of the population converted to Islam (**Islamization**).
- ❑ They promoted **schools and libraries**.
- ❑ They spread the use and production of **paper** as a new writing material.
- ❑ **Ancient Greek and Roman books** were **translated** and their culture spread.

